

under the microscope. After exposure to the air for two days, a crop of fungi appeared on the cut surface; but, strange to say, the central portion, consisting of the two internal strata, was covered with a species of *Oidium* of a grayish tint, while the external ring, which had now lost all rigidity, was occupied with a white circle of *Penicillium glaucum* passing on the inner edge into the greenish tinge of adult tufts of that fungus. We do not recollect to have seen anything of the kind before, and we record it with the greater pleasure, as it shows how much ground there is for observation, even in objects which we tread every day under foot.

The *Oidium* is a most beautiful object under the microscope. It is a form of *Oidium fructigenum*, differing merely in its rather grayer tinge and diffuse mode of growth, owing probably to its having liberty of free development, instead of being forced to break out through the cuticle, in which it forms little tufts which are often arranged concentrically. In intimate structure it precisely resembles the type which is admirably figured by Corda in his 'Icones Fungorum.'—*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

#### PRESIDENCY OF THE LINNÆAN SOCIETY.

The anonymous writer of the paragraph in the 'Athenæum,' in which it was asserted that there was "a strong feeling among the Fellows" of the Linnæan Society "in favour of biennial election to the Presidency," is, of course, very angry at the notice on the subject in the last Number of the 'Annals.'

In a paragraph (Athenæum, Dec. 8) the writer attempts to elude the charge of having made a false statement. The expression, "a strong feeling among the Fellows," must evidently have been intended to convey that such feeling prevailed among the majority, or at least some considerable number of the Fellows: and this, we again assert, is wholly without foundation. "WE stated," says the writer, "what WE knew to be the fact, that *many* of the Fellows inclined towards a biennial election." Who, then, is this wonderful WE, that pretends to know so much of the feelings and opinions of the Fellows of the Linnæan Society? And what does he call *many*? ten, five, or two? Or perhaps he considers his WE a host in itself. If however he would append his initials, which (to use his own phrase) "have not yet transpired," and which probably might be deciphered as easily as our R. T., the public might be enabled to judge of the value of his statements. The right of the author of the paragraph to entertain any opinion he pleases was never questioned (although he falsely charges us with assuming "that no opinion differing from our own can be held"); nor did we enter at all upon the question as to a biennial election; what we protested against was, that he should obtrude his private fancies upon the public, pretending that they were the strong feeling of a large body of Fellows. We also object that recourse should have been had to the hackneyed newspaper expedient for setting an unfounded rumour afloat by such an insinuation as the following:—"It has *not yet transpired* whether the invitation *has or has not been received conditionally* by Mr.

Brown"—thus pretending to assume either that it was in contemplation to propose to him to accept the Presidency on some conditions different from those of the Charter, or that he himself desired to do so : whereas the writer, if he has the acquaintance with the affairs of the Society to which he pretends, must have been perfectly aware that no such question had ever been broached.—R. T.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR NOV. 1849.

*Chiswick.*—November 1. Fine. 2. Foggy: very fine. 3. Dense fog. 4. Foggy: cloudy at night. 5. Cloudless and fine. 6. Clear. 7. Rain. 8. Densely overcast. 9. Overcast: fine: overcast. 10. Exceedingly fine. 11. Clear and fine: foggy at night. 12. Foggy: hazy. 13. Fine: rain. 14. Heavy rain: clear at night. 15. Clear: cloudy: clear. 16. Fine. 17. Clear. 18. Overcast: slight rain: showery at night. 19. Hazy. 20. Uniformly overcast. 21. Hazy. 22. Foggy: overcast. 23. Overcast: rain. 24. Foggy. 25. Foggy: cloudy: clear. 26. Foggy: cloudy and cold: clear: sharp frost at night. 27. Sharp frost: clear: foggy. 28. Frosty and foggy: clear and frosty: foggy. 29. Overcast: fine: overcast. 30. Constant rain.

Mean temperature of the month .....	41°·99
Mean temperature of Nov. 1848 .....	41·18
Mean temperature of Nov. for the last twenty-three years	43·41
Average amount of rain in November .....	2·56 inches.

*Boston.*—Nov. 1. Cloudy. 2. Fine. 3, 4. Foggy. 5, 6. Fine. 7. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 8—10. Cloudy. 11. Fine. 12. Foggy. 13—17. Fine. 18. Cloudy: rain A.M. 19, 20. Fine. 21, 22. Cloudy. 23. Cloudy: rain P.M. 24—26. Fine. 27. Fine: snow A.M. 28. Snow. 29. Cloudy. 30. Rain: rain A.M.

The following are the averages for Oct. 1849, with which we have been favoured by our correspondent Mr. W. Veall of Boston, whose report did not arrive in time for our last Number.

Barometer.	Thermometer.	Rain in inches.
29·46	48·8	3·32

*Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.*—Nov. 1. Rain during night: cleared P.M. 2. Raw frost A.M.: rain: fog P.M. 3. Raw frost again: threatening rain. 4. Fine A.M.: rain and high wind P.M. 5. Heavy showers all day. 6. Hard frost A.M.: storm of snow P.M. 7. Frost: snow nearly all day. 8—10. Slight drizzle: damp all day. 11. Heavy rain and thick. 12. Dull A.M.: fine noon: wet P.M. 13. Heavy showers, with blasts. 14. Clear and cold, with showers. 15, 16. Frost: clear and fine. 17. Close rain and mist all day. 18. Rain during night: mild: rain. 19. Rain during night: cleared: warm. 20. Rain and fog all day. 21. Fair, but dull. 22. Rain and fog throughout. 23. Rain and fog: cleared P.M. 24. Frost, hard: grew mild. 25. Frost not so hard: rain: fog. 26. Frost hard again. 27. Frost hard all day. 28. Frost very hard. 29. Snow: hard frost: rain P.M. 30. Thick fog: heavy rain: cleared.

Mean temperature of the month .....	42°·0
Mean temperature of Nov. 1848 .....	39·8
Mean temperature of Nov. for the last twenty-five years ...	40·4
Mean rain in November for twenty years .....	3·60 inches.

*Sandwick Manse, Orkney.*—Nov. 1. Fine: large halo: aurora. 2. Showers. 3. Fine: showers. 4. Cloudy: showers. 5. Showers. 6, 7. Snow: snow-showers. 8. Snow-showers: rain. 9. Cloudy. 10. Showers. 11. Bright: cloudy: aurora. 12. Bright: clear: aurora. 13. Showers: aurora. 14. Bright: clear: aurora. 15. Bright: frost: showers. 16. Clear: frost: clear. 17. Showers: rain. 18. Drizzle: clear. 19. Fine: clear: aurora. 20. Drizzle: damp. 21. Cloudy: damp. 22. Fine: clear. 23. Rain. 24. Fine: clear: aurora. 25. Fine: frost: clear. 26. Rain. 27. Clear. 28. Clear: frost: cloudy. 29. Bright: showers. 30. Fine.